

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

Minutes

December 1, 2004

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order on Wednesday, December 1, 2004, at 4:20 p.m. by Bruce Wilson, Chairman, in the Council Chamber, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Bruce Wilson, James Donaldson, Preston Sale, Judy Kandl, Michael Lippard, Suzette Davis, Bill Safrit, Greta Connor and Barbara Perry

Absent: Johnny Safrit, Cindee Bridges

Staff: Lynn Raker, Janice Bodford, Diana Moghrabi

After some holiday refreshment and visiting, the meeting got underway. The minutes of the November meeting were approved as published; the November financial report was reviewed and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Art in Public Places

- Bruce Wilson distributed a flyer for the “Celebration of Angels.” Artists’ works are featured at the annual exhibit at Robertson Eastern Gateway Park on East Innes Street. This is a countywide competition for the best angel, an event sponsored by Downtown Salisbury, Inc. and F&M Bank. Each of the four angels will be displayed in Robertson Park through mid-January. Past winners can be seen in downtown Salisbury stores and on church lawns, among other places.
- **HAT** (History and Art Trail). The sub-committee working on the markers met one time. They have developed a conceptual idea to mark the sites: a bronze plaque with a symbol that represents the five eras that would apply to a particular person, place, or event. Eighty sites, people and events have been identified for the trail, although not all will be included in the final project. The plaque could be placed in the sidewalk, on a wall, or on a granite riser, depending on the location. The committee hopes to submit a design to the local foundations in time for the upcoming grant cycles. The committee will meet again next week; however, Barbara Perry said the committee does not want to rush since the project will have a long life once it is installed.

A report from the recent HAT charette has not been distributed at this time. The charette leader, Jim Hirschfield, is out of the country.

Lynn met with Ray Moose and was very impressed with both his work and his ideas. He will soon present some prices for his suggestions on the markers. Mr. Moose would like to work on a school project with James Donaldson.

- ***Mosaic Project.*** The tiles for the project are in Robert Crum's basement, and they are beautiful. He has been preparing the wall and awaiting the arrival of fair weather before he begins placing the tiles. Bruce would like to send a thank you to Charlie Walters, the supplier of the tiles, for the extra effort and generosity he has contributed to the project.

Neighborhoods & Education Committee

- James reported on the five-year Consolidated Plan luncheon held in the Council Chamber on December 1. The Consolidated Plan serves as both an application and a reporting document for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME program funds through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The funds are used to support a range of neighborhood revitalization projects, including home construction, housing rehabilitation and home ownership programs, and to assist with the provision of public services in the areas of community economic development, health, education, crime prevention, drug abuse, fair housing counseling, and related programs.

The Consolidated Plan is a collaborative approach for analyzing community and housing development needs, setting priorities, and outlining strategies to help meet those needs. Information provided by a cross-section of agencies and organizations serving low to moderate income groups, as well as special needs and homeless populations, is a cornerstone of the Consolidated Plan. The data, along with input from community residents, will be used to assess levels of need and set funding priorities.

- James recommended calling police if you find graffiti in your neighborhood. This could be an indication of gang activity.

Landscaping

Landscape of the month awards will start with nominations in March with the first awards in April.

Municipal Service District (MSD) and Innes Street Improvement Grants

- There is \$1,600 left in the MSD grant fund if the Ketner request is granted; more if it is not. Stitchin' Post Gifts has applied for an MSD grant.

- \$3,000 balance in the Innes Street Improvement Grants. Hardees' on Innes St. is going to apply for a grant to bring their sign into compliance. Janice Bodford reported that an estimate for the new sign was received in the Mayor's office today.
- There have been a number of complaints about a shredded awning that has been waving in the wind, which is an eyesore for the Square. The property on North Main Street belongs to Lane Yates. Downtown merchants and residents would like to see some immediate action on the situation. A grant was awarded to replace the awning.
- The property at the corner of Main and Bank Streets that is known as the Kress Building has an awning in similar condition as the Lane Yates Property; funding has also been granted for awning repair.
- Lynn Raker asked David Owens, a respected speaker on the subject of planning and North Carolina law, if it would be possible to adopt minimum maintenance standards for buildings. He was very gray with the answer, but said several towns have adopted such legislation. David Treme recommended that surrounding business owners (rather than City staff) bring it to Council's attention. CAC would like to initiate some action to improve on poor maintenance of downtown buildings.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mike Young, representing his company, Downtown Graphics Network Inc., gave a presentation on event banners. Bruce thought boulevard banners could be a way neighborhoods could display civic pride. He would like to gather information to present to neighborhoods.

Mr. Young, a former Main Street Manager, manufactures banners for municipalities all over the country. He supplied the banners located at the Salisbury Farmers Market (24" x 48") and for the Rowan 250 fest. The material he uses is an acrylic coated awning canvas that is ultra violet, mildew, and flame resistant. They have a 5-year colorfast warranty and a 3-year continuous warranty outside, although they last about seven years. Mr. Young uses a screen-printing process. (Screen-printing can be applied to a variety of materials such as aluminum, glass, and steel.) Speed of the traffic and number of cars would dictate the size and quantity of banners he would recommend using. Mr. Young brought samples of hardware (the hardware has been used on Duke Power owned poles) and banners, along with some fabric color samples, and he distributed flyers. He prefers to use the "Main Street" line of fabric because of the UV resistance and because it resists pollutants.

He showed slides of a well-organized neighborhood in Knoxville that erected their banners on special poles rather than lampposts that cost approximately \$200-\$300 each. The bracket can run \$79 a set. The sample in the slides was a 3-color banner that cost about \$70 a banner. Each additional color increases the price. You could switch fabric color for variation in order to save money. He could supply the artwork and make it camera-ready. If he is the vendor of choice, there is no charge for his artwork. He requires a minimum run of 12 pieces and a maximum at this date has been 900 pieces. Once the design is determined, the standard turn around time for a print job runs about 3 ½ to 4 weeks.

“Who would pay?”

There is currently an effort to create a Downtown Salisbury walking tour whereby each of the four quadrants would be identified with a different banner. Another appropriate use of banners or signs would be during the October Tour. Banners could define neighborhood boundaries.

Other suggestions for materials include bricks and mortar, cutouts, etc. Bruce will bring some information on cutouts. It would be important to have consistency in the city. The local sign ordinance must be taken into consideration.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Innes Street Bridge is nearing completion and looks nice. It will cost approximately \$30,000 to purchase and install eight double-arm decorative lighting units. The City will submit the project to The Blanche and Julian Robertson Foundation for funding.

Greta asked for information on the group development project known as College Park on Old Wilkesboro Road.

OLD BUSINESS

The wall at Oakdale Cemetery has been completed and is attractive.

James reported that a house in Jersey City that was prepared to be moved had finally moved.

NEW BUSINESS

Lynn Raker distributed a draft of the CAC goals. Goals will be defined at the January meeting and sent to City Council.

Bruce Wilson thanked members and staff for their hard work this year.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned.

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